



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Senior Affairs Advisory Board (SAAB) Minutes Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Chairperson Pat Ford.

Members Present: John Patrick Ford, Leane Marchese, Sharon McColl, Floyd Willis **Excused**
Absences: Millie Acasio, Dolli Cutler, Sam Duran, William Liu, Madeline Paul, Donald Steele, Cheryl Wilson **Absent:** Rosemary White-Pope, Rudy Fernandez **Staff Present:** Diana Gray, Mona Jagtiani **Guests:** Susan Ferguson, Alison Waite

Introductions were made.

Minutes of March 2, 2005 meeting were presented and two corrections to minutes were noted:

The first amendment to the minutes of March 2nd, under old business, the housing task force report, the second paragraph should be corrected to read, "Leane met with Claudine Duff of the Senior Legislature Regional Task Force and was informed that the shared housing proposal that she helped to draft ~~will be one of the items to go forward to the state level~~ (add instead) ~~would be taken forward to the group at the state level where it will be determined if the proposal would be identified as one of the bills that the Senior Legislature Task Force would take forward to the state.~~

Second amendment to the minutes of March 2nd, on the second page under Annual Report Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee sub-section, please add the words **or June**. The sentence should read as follows: SAAB is preparing to draft a report to be presented in May **or June** 2005.

The minutes of March 2, 2005 Senior Affairs Advisory Board Meeting will be presented at the May 4, 2005 SAAB meeting for approval.

Modifications to the Agenda:

None

Old Business:

Housing Task Force (Cheryl Wilson): Leane Marchese reported on the Housing Task Force. The Task Force is looking at making some inroads on tax credits. This is one of the main things the task force is working on in addition to the Shared Housing piece. And the committee is also trying to connect directly with council members' offices.

Discussion focused on an attempt to get a copy of the City's document that directs its lobbying efforts so that SAAB can effect change in that document.

Transportation Committee, Seniors Ride Free (Floyd Willis): Floyd Willis met with this committee which is now coupled with the Transportation Committee. William Liu who worked on the most recent Transportation Survey is also a part of this team effort. William and Floyd will be working together to revisit the results of the transportation survey.

Floyd Willis reported that senior citizens in the City of San Diego are able to access public transportation with a special senior's monthly pass that cost \$14.50. This discounted pass is made possible with a Transnet Occupancy Tax subsidy. Senior passes provide \$5 million in revenue for the Metropolitan Transit System. In the past, MTS has tried to increase its senior ridership with a week long promotion where riding the bus was free for seniors. It was recommended that the "Seniors Ride Free" concept be used as a marketing tool to get seniors to feel comfortable riding. Seniors would be able to ride the bus between the hours of 10 and 3 free during a marketing promotion period of 6 months to a year.

Other concepts are being reviewed in light of what actual senior citizen transportation needs might be. The committee will continue to network with other existing agencies who are trying to address the needs of the San Diego community in reference to transportation. Specifically, the committee will be in communication with SANDAG's a coordinated transportation service agency, SanDi-Can and the City's Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

County RSVP Senior Volunteer Public School Pilot Program (Guest Speaker: June Dudas, City of San Diego "6 to 6" Extended School Program Administrator): June Dudas gave a brief overview of the history of before and after school care within the City of San Diego. The City of San Diego has acknowledged the need for after school care and had been providing after school care for 90 years when the "6 to 6" Program was developed as an extension of the care already being provided. The "6 to 6" Program is a more structured state licensed program being provided on a first priority basis to students of low income families. The program transitioned under Mayor Susan Golding who was herself a working parent and recognized the need that parents had for before and after school care for their children.

Currently the "6 to 6" Program operates in 178 Elementary and Middle Schools in the City. This service spans 5 different school districts with an average daily attendance of 24,000 students receiving services. In fact, the City of San Diego has the largest "6 to 6" Program in the state of California. The enrollment process is very competitive process with limited space.

The funding used to support each student in the "6 to 6" Program is very low; however the Care Providers that are contracted to provide the service at \$4.75 per student are doing this as a service to the community because they recognize the need. A pilot program is being operated at select sites in the County and they are trying to find ways to recruit older Americans with an interest in volunteering to help out with the program by sharing their gifts with the students.

Life Scan fingerprinting is performed on each volunteer participant along with a required TB test. Members of SAAB provided recommendations to June as to possible sources of marketing sources to seniors who might be interested in serving as volunteers. Some possibilities included: AARP publications, area churches, senior facilities, Volunteer San Diego, UPLIFT San Diego, retirement homes, etc. The pilot program operates in a structured setting and orientation training sessions are provided to seniors interested in volunteering.

Annual Report to Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee: Pat Ford will work with the Housing Task Force Committee and the Transportation to prepare a report for presentation to the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee for sometime in June 2005.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

New Business: None at this time.

Announcements:

Susan Ferguson extended an invitation to SAAB members to attend the Second Annual Golden Caregivers Awards on Friday, May 6, 2005 at 5:30 in the evening. Invitations were distributed for this event will be held at The El Cortez Hotel. The cost to attend is \$65.00 per person.

Leane Marchese announced that her organization ElderHelp has been invited to be a participant of the Mather Lifeways Concept in the new Renaissance at North Park. Leane will bring a DVD and present more information on this concept at the next SAAB meeting.

Patrick Ford will be absent from the next meeting. He will be away receiving a prestigious award for his work in the community. In his place, Floyd Willis will chair the board meeting in May.

The Meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Chairperson: Patrick Ford

SAAB website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/boards-commissions/senior.shtml>

City Staff: Diana Gray -- telephone: (619) 533-3913